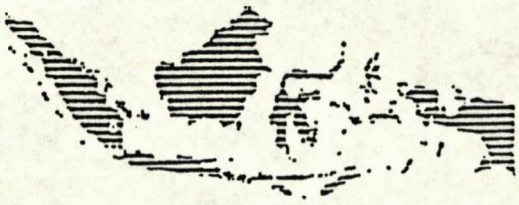

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Johannes Pronk, Chairman,
Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia,
Ministry for Development Cooperation,
The Hague, Netherlands

20 May 1990

Dear Mr Pronk,

The undersigned organisations which are committed to ending the systematic abuse of human rights in Indonesia avail themselves of the occasion of the June 1990 meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia to present this petition to you.

1. We welcome your recent statement that "if we speak about human rights matters, it is wrong to imply that political conditions are being attached to aid. Human rights are not political conditions, they are universal in nature.... The concept of development and the development of human rights have gradually merged. They are two sides of the same coin. Development is not just a matter of economics." (Your interview in Editor, 14 April 1990)

2. We have long been opposed to IGGI's programme of financing economic development in Indonesia because we consider that it has a deleterious effect on living conditions and had consistently ignored the human rights situation. We fully endorse the petitions presented to you during your visit to Indonesia in April this year by H.J. Princen, chairman of the Indonesian Institute for the Defence of Human Rights, by the Indonesian Front for the Defence of Human Rights (INFIGHT) and by the Communications Forum of Yogyakarta Students. As INFIGHT points out, IGGI financial assistance can only be catastrophic if it fails to consider the real facts about the human rights situation, while the Communications Forum calls for a halt to IGGI funds until real democratic reforms have taken place in Indonesia. We welcome your promise, made during your visit, to circulate their petitions to all members of IGGI and to place these issues on the agenda of the IGGI meeting on 12-13 June 1990.

3. We believe that the right to self-determination is a fundamental matter of concern to IGGI. This right is an integral part of international law, having been incorporated into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The member-states and international agencies which collaborate within IGGI have until now ignored the fact that by funding and promoting

Indonesia's economic development programme as a whole, they thereby condone and endorse the violation of the right of the peoples of East Timor and West Papua to self-determination. Development projects in both these countries, many of which are directly or indirectly funded by IGGI, are inextricably bound up with Indonesia's attempts to integrate them into the Indonesian state; these projects also involve the exploitation and plunder of natural resources, in breach of the inalienable right of the peoples themselves to determine the use and exploitation of these resources.

4. In East Timor, the Indonesian Government has made no secret of the fact that its economic projects are primarily aimed at enhancing its claim that East Timor is now an Indonesian province. They seek to use the alleged benefits of economic development to mask the tragedy that has befallen the people of East Timor, as if they could compensate for the 200,000 people who died as a direct or indirect consequence of Indonesia's war of annexation.

5. Social conditions in East Timor reveal the depth of alienation in East Timorese society towards the present rulers. Social scientists from Gadjah Mada University who carried out research in East Timor earlier this year observed that the people "have not yet recovered from the trauma of 'war'" and that the local administration is "acutely aware of the inadequacy of people's participation in development programmes". ("A Socio-Anthropological Study of Society in East Timor" prepared by the Rural Development Research Centre, Yogyakarta, 1990, page 1) This trauma, they assert, is reflected in contradictory attitudes of the rulers and the people of East Timor. "The Indonesian Government believes that, with the integration of East Timor, the matter of East Timor's decolonisation is over. But East Timorese society does not see it in that light." (Page 7). The social scientists speak of the trauma which afflicts both sides. While rulers and government officials behave in an inflexible and authoritarian way, the people display an attitude of non-cooperation. (Page 124) So critical were the findings of the research team that a seminar at which they were to have been discussed was cancelled. This is typical of the Indonesian Government's policy of obstructing all public discussion about the situation in East Timor.

6. People in East Timor have tried to break out of their isolation and draw attention to their plight by making direct appeals to the governments of IGGI member-states. Last June, five East Timorese students sought help from the Japanese embassy in Jakarta to leave the country for political asylum abroad; regrettably, the Japanese Government turned its back on these people who were fleeing from persecution. In January this year,

several hundred East Timorese students risked the threat of persecution by demonstrating at the time of a visit to Dili by US ambassador, John Monjo. They informed him of East Timor's desire to exercise its right to self-determination and described the human rights abuses their people suffer in the name of economic development.

7. The IGGI has been a party to Indonesia's unlawful occupation of East Timor and has never raised with the Indonesian authorities the illegality of its position and its programmes in East Timor.

8. The people of West Papua have suffered the indignity of Indonesian occupation even longer than the East Timorese. Whereas East Timor was annexed by means of an invasion, West Papua was annexed as the result of a farcical 'act of free choice'. The people of West Papua have been betrayed by governments and agencies within IGGI which have never stopped to consider the invalidity of this 'act' but have condoned Indonesia's unlawful rule by assisting and funding development projects in West Papua.

9. IGGI and in particular World Bank support for Jakarta's transmigration programme has failed to recognise that the planned colonisation of the territory by tens and eventually hundreds of thousands of families from Java and elsewhere represents the most direct and irreversible threat to West Papua's right to self-determination.

10. IGGI-funded infrastructure projects provide the framework for a massive programme to exploit West Papua's natural resources, its mineral wealth and forests, with devastating results for the ecology. Exploitation of these resources is being accelerated in order to provide the foreign exchange to service Indonesia's massive foreign debt. It gravely damages the resources that have provided the West Papuan people with their livelihood for generations.

11. IGGI has turned its back on the plight of some 10,000 refugees from West Papua who are now living in poorly-equipped camps in Papua New Guinea. These families who fled their ancestral homes because of persecution, now suffer the indignities of an uncertain status and appalling material conditions which were identified by Maartje van Putten, a member of the European Parliament, during a recent visit to the camps. (Het Parool, 11 April 1990)

12. In Indonesia itself, IGGI has not paid attention to the systematic persecution of so-called 'ex-tapols' who were held for years without trial or who suffered discrimination on suspicion of being members or sympathisers of the Indonesian Communist Party and

numerous other left-wing organisations that were unlawfully banned in 1965. According to the government's own figures, some 1.4 million people are the target of discriminatory practices because of their alleged left-wing associations nearly a quarter of a century ago. These people and members of their families are required to report regularly to the authorities and attend 'indoctrination sessions'; they cannot travel without special permits and encounter a welter of obstructions in the jobs market; their voting rights are constantly under scrutiny and they are not allowed full participation in social and political organisations.

13. Besides the inhumanity and illegality of this systematic persecution, IGGI members disregard the fact that the threat of being branded an 'ex-tapol' is used against people who question or challenge the impact of development programmes upon their lives. For example, people who have rejected inadequate compensation payments for land appropriated for projects such as the World Bank-funded Kedung Ombo dam, have been accused of being 'ex-tapols' in order to force them into submission. IGGI members should heed the recommendation of Asia Watch: "All restrictions on former political prisoners should be lifted. The practice of initialling their identity cards should be dispensed with; their obligation to report their movements and activities to the military authorities should cease. All regulations, decrees and clarifications relating to the 'clean environment' policy should be formally and publicly abolished." (Injustice, Persecution, Eviction: a Human Rights Update on Indonesia and East Timor Asia Watch, USA, March 1990, page 83-84.)

In conclusion, may we ask you to circulate this petition to all governments and international agencies which will be attending the forthcoming IGGI meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Gerakan demi Hak-hak Azasi Manusia dan Demokrasi
(Movement of Indonesians abroad for Human Rights and Democracy) (Leiden, The Netherlands)

INDOC, Indonesian Documentation & Information Centre
(Leiden, The Netherlands)

Komitee Indonesia
(Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

TAPOL, the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign
(Thornton Heath, Surrey, United Kingdom)